

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Monday 25 October at 7:30pm at the Hemingford Abbots Village Hall

Present

Parish Councillors:

Marcus Whewell (Chair)
Zoe Ryall (Vice Chair)
Bridget Flanagan
John Peters
Bob Penney

District Councillors:

HDC Cllr Sarah Wilson

Clerk:

Mrs Maxine Blewett

Members of the Public:

Three

MINUTES

80. **To receive Apologies for absence**
Apologies received from HDC Cllrs. Mike Grice and Sarah Conboy, Parish Councillor Peter Keen and CCC Councillor Doug Dew.
81. **Reports from County Councillors and District Councillors**
Cllr Sarah Wilson's written report is attached to these minutes. HAPC Cllrs asked Cllr SW why HDC had taken the decision **not to consult** with the Parish Council on tree applications, when other parishes were asked to comment. Cllr SW reported that the decision to follow statutory minimum requirements had been taken by the Planning Officer to help the team cope with heavy workloads and staffing shortages. SW explained that she is unable to influence a change to this decision. Cllr MW commented that this was incongruent with HDC's Environmental Policy and also the latest report and recommendations from the Peterborough and Cambs independent Commission on climate change.
82. **Councillors' Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests**
Cllr BF declared an interest in agenda item 84.4.
83. **Public Participation Session**
Iain Muspratt provided an update to his written report which has been uploaded to the Parish Council website. The Astro-turf site that MGL (Mick George Limited) wants to develop as part of a waste recycling centre has twice visited the adjacent neighbours (Circuit Solutions – who have strongly objected to the development as it would require them to either relocate or cease operations) to say that Huntingdon District Council (HDC) want the Astro-turf business 'to stay where it is'. This is thought unlikely as no evidence has been provided by MGL to support this claim. The Hemingford Action Group have formally written to HDC to clarify the matter.
- With reference to agenda item 92.7, a member of the public asked if HAPC would consider making a financial contribution to the Parish Magazine. HAPC gave £250 a year prior to 2019. As the magazine is now online and there are fewer hard copies produced the Parish Magazine would welcome any suitable level of contribution to help in producing the magazine.
- Cllr MW introduced Mr. Phillip Cooke to the Council. Phillip would like to put himself forward for co-option to the role of Parish Councillor. He has lived in Hemingford Abbots with his family for 22 years and likes to be involved in village life. As a business owner for many years Phillip believes he has a range of professional skills that may benefit HAPC. Cllr MW requested bringing forward agenda item 89 - Co-option to fill Vacancy for immediate discussion. It was proposed Phillip Cooke be co-opted to the role of Parish Councillor. All in favour and it was **RESOLVED that Phillip Cooke be Co-opted to the role of Parish Councillor**
84. **To Consider planning applications, decision notices and tree work applications**
84.1 **21/02213/HHFUL** Proposed demolition of an existing detached garage. Proposed construction of an extension to the main house, comprising of a swimming pool, gym, changing rooms & plant room, with first floor annex

accommodation over and a glazed link. 6A Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. Hemingford Abbots Parish Council (HAPC) **recommends refusal of this application in that it is contrary to the Policies of the Adopted Local Plan to 2036 and specifically that it is contrary to Policy LP34 of the Local Plan.** HAPC's recommendations for refusal are consistent with the reasons given by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and the Planning Inspectorate for the refusal of previous applications for development of this site.

- 84.2** **20/01607/OUT APPEAL** against decision to demolish all existing buildings and the foundations and to construct eight new dwellings with a garage on the existing site, including repositioning the existing access road and constructing a new access and pedestrian side walk. **5 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots.** HAPC notes the appeal on 5 Common Lane and wishes to reaffirm its views as follows: **HAPC has consistently recommended refusal of this development (in 2018, 2019 and 2020), and considers that this application represents a tandem development in a conservation area and is therefore contrary to planning policy. HAPC also wishes to state that it fully supports HDC's reasons for its decision to repeatedly refuse this application.** Clerk is to record HAPC's comments on the Planning Inspectorate's online appeals service.
- 84.3** **21/80324/COND Conditional Information for 21/00447/FUL: C3 (perimeter planting) and C4 (TPP) Open for comment icon. Hemingford Abbots Golf Centre Cambridge Road Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon. Received 5/10/21.** For information only, however HAPC are pleased to note there are several large trees being planted.
- 84.4** **21/02180/TREE** T1 Leylandii: Section fell to as near to ground level as possible. Unsightly specimen, outgrown location. T2 Beech: Reduce from house side by circa 1.5 metres, thin remaining crown by 30%. Maintenance of size in location. T3 Oak: Remove 2 number lowest secondary limbs growing towards house. To allow access beneath tree for grass cutting. T4 Scots Pine: Remove large right hand side dying limb/stem and remove deadwood from left side stem. Dying / Dead. 5 Oak: Reduce the 2 leaders by circa 3 metres (as growing into Pine). Young tree suppressed by Pine tree, works to clear Pine. T6 Willow: Pollard at 8 metres. Extensive dieback throughout crown. Works to prevent failure into river. **HAPC are neither for or against this application.**
- 85.** **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 20th September 2021**
The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th of September 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed.
- 86.** **Matters arising from the previous meetings and Action Points**
- 86.1** **Website** – Cllr ZR reported that Town and Parish Council Websites have built and migrated the content from the old to the new website. ZR and the Clerk are to review the layout in the week following the PC meeting. It is expected that the new website will be live in the next couple of weeks.
- 86.2** **LHI** – Cllr MW reported that Highways have not responded to his emails regarding the replacement of the small 20 mph signs with the larger size. MW and the Clerk to arrange a meeting with CCC Cllr Doug Dew to discuss this and other CCC outstanding issues.
- 86.3** **Noticeboards for the Playing Field** – Cllr BF reported that she has given Coral Walton some historical information on the village. CW has a heavy workload and has given no timeframe for completion. BF will continue to manage the process and provide progress reports.
- 86.4** **Parish Council Open Evening** – All Councillors agreed the event had been a success. MW thanked Cllr PK for his generous personal contribution towards the cost of food and drinks for the evening, and he also thanked Councillors for their involvement during the event. MW is keen to keep up the momentum and proposed that HAPC share the feedback with residents via another leaflet drop. ZR and PC suggested we include announcing the new website to encourage residents to log on. MW/ZR/PC to develop the leaflet and circulate a draft for comment and approval.
- 86.5.** **Astro-Turf Site** – Cllr MW confirmed that Dr. A. Willetts is to issue a third letter of complaint to the Environment Agency. MW confirmed that HAPC had been set up as client with Gunner Cooke LLP and that no fees had been levied or agreed for the work carried out to date.
- 86.6** **Fairness, Nature & Communities: Addressing Climate Change in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough** – MW and BP attended an online event where CCC spoke about eleven new principles for combating climate change. Whilst there were numerous recommendations, no actions have yet been agreed at county or local level. MW and BP will circulate updates / decisions when they are received from CCC.
- 87.** **Clerk's Report:**
- 87.1** **Village Gate replacement** - On two separate occasions the Clerk has emailed HGPC to ask if they would be willing to let HAPC have one of their gates to replace the lost gate on New Road without a decision. Clerk to email HGPC one more time.
- 87.2** **Flooding around Royal Oak Lane** – to note CCC has confirmed the work to jet, cleanse, and report on 20 gullies/offlets on Royal Oak Lane, Rideaway and Hight Street has been ordered. The timescale for the work to start is 13 weeks from the 27/9/21 - date that the flooding was reported. HAPC finds the timescale unacceptable, and it was **RESOLVED** that MW and the Clerk are to arrange a meeting with CCC Cllr Doug Dew to discuss bringing the work forward.
- 87.3** **Barrier Repairs** – After several email follow-ups to CCC Highways a reply was received from L. Lark. The email explained that there are issues with the manufacture of the bespoke parts that are needed to replace the existing barriers and the contractor has advised that the earliest start date for the works will be 4th January 2022 and the works will be completed over 25 days. **RESOLVED** that MW and the Clerk arrange to meet CCC Cllr Doug Dew.
- 87.4** **Accompanied Playground Inspection** – Noted that the inspection took place on 13/10/21. Since the meeting the report has been received and circulated to all Councillors.

- 87.5 **Grass cutting** – noted that an email has been sent to Bradgate Ltd to request weekly cuts throughout October 2022.
- 87.6 **Email Signatures – RESOLVED** that all Councillors and the Clerk agreed to set up standard email signature option 3.
88. **Appointment** – of a new Chairman for the Personnel Committed and Representative for the HAVH Committee. **RESOLVED** to defer this agenda item until the next PC meeting.
89. **To consider the best options available to fill 1 Vacancy on the Parish Council**
This agenda item was brought forward under item **agenda item 83. Mr. P. Cooke has been co-opted as Councillor.** HAPC now has a full complement of Councillors.

90. **Financial Matters**

90.1 **RESOLVED** to approve the financial report and the payment of October bills

Pay-ment Method	Expense Code	Description / Payee	Date / Period	Net	VAT	Total	Comments
BACS	4000	Clerk's Salary	October	£ 462.96	£	£ 462.96	
BACS	4020	HMRC	October	£ 115.80		£ 115.80	
BACS	4060	Clerk's expenses	October	£ 8.00	£	£ 8.00	
BACS	4055	Refund Clerk for stationery	October	£ 42.63		£ 42.63	
BACS	4220	Bradgate Fencing	For grass cutting 6,13,21 Sept	£ 99.00	£ 19.80	£ 118.80	
BACS	4315	Ask IT Ltd	October Live Drive Backup for PC	£ 16.67	£ 3.33	£ 20.00	
BACS	4105	CAPALC	Cllr Training B. Penney	£ 75.00		£ 75.00	
BACS	4250	K&M Lighting Ltd	Streelight – removal of 4 concrete posts and replacement with steel columns.	£ 2196.12	£439.22	£ 2635.34	
BACS	4095	PKF Littlejohn Ltd.	AGAR Limited Review	£ 200.00	£ 40.00	£ 240.00	
Total Payments				£ 3,216.18	£502.35	£3,718.53	

It was agreed that Councillors PK, BP, and JP will meet before the next HAPC meeting to review HAPC's three year financial plan and report back to the council, specifically with regard to setting the budget and precept for **2022/2023**.

91. **Village Maintenance and Repairs – none reported.**

92. **Correspondence received**

92.1 **Noted** that an Email was received from Sarah Cuming (HDC) on 11/10/21 in response to the Clerk's email enquiring why HAPC was no longer notified of applications for tree works. SC's response: HDC took the strategic decision approximately 2 years ago that they would not consult with Town and Parish Councils on tree works notifications. Under the scope of the legislation HDC is not required to undertake consultations for conservation area proposals and more importantly, HDC found that because of the extremely limited time scales set in which

Initials:

we can assess applications, it is not possible to give an effective consultation period. **See agenda item 81 above for Cllr S Wilson's response.**

- 92.2** Email received on 7/10/21 from a parishioner who had also spoken to Councillors at the Open Meeting regarding trees that pose a potential obstruction / danger to highways and were restricting the street lighting. HAPC agreed that it would be better to approach all the home owners whose trees were 'overgrown' and encroaching on the public highway, rather than to issue letters. **RESOLVED** that MW, PC and BP would agree on which home owners each would call on to request trimming back of trees, and that they would report back at the next meeting. The position of Tree Warden was discussed and it was agreed that this will be advertised in the parish magazine and on the new website. BF to send job descriptions to MW / PC.
- 92.3** Email received from Michael Hann (HDC) regarding Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. To mark the occasion, Jubilee Beacons are being lit on 2nd June 2022 across the United Kingdom. **HAPC RESOLVED to not support the lighting Jubilee Beacons because of the impact on the environment of countryside burning of fossil fuel. HAPC will concentrate on the 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' initiative and BF is to write an article for the Parish Magazine to encourage parishioners to record what they are planting and share this with the council so it can track overall progress.**
- 92.4** Email received from a parishioner on 18/10/21 who would like to organise a Hemingford Abbots Village Fete on 2/7/22 to take place in the Village Hall and on the Playing Field. The money raised will go to the Wood Green Animal shelter and to Cancer research. The parishioner would like to meet with representatives of the PC to discuss the event. **HAPC RESOLVED for MW to meet with the parishioner to find out more details regarding the scope and scale of the event (Action MW). MW to report back at the next PC meeting.**
- 92.5** Email from Cllr Doug Dew 18 October 2021 notifying HAPC about CCC's new grant scheme to combat flooding. CCC are encouraging grant applications and for PC's to develop Community Flood Groups to combat flooding. **Cllr MW has been liaising with Fenstanton PC on creating a Joint Flood Plan. MW is awaiting further information and will report back at the next PC meeting.**
- 92.6** **Email received from HDC on 15/10/21:** Landscape and Townscape SPD: Consultation Draft 2021 will be available for you to view and comment between 15/10/21 and 10/12/21. Please select the following link to view this event: <https://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/kse/event/36533>. **HAPC RESOLVED for BF to respond on behalf of the PC (Action BF).**
- 92.7** Email received on 22/9/21 from the Parish Magazine asking if HAPC would consider reinstating financial support for the Parish Magazine. **RESOLVED** that HAPC would give £100 to the Parish Magazine. Clerk to seek further information from the Parish Magazine to determine if additional funding can be considered and establish the current distribution of the magazine (printed and digital).
- 93. Items for Next Meeting**
MW proposed a general review of how planning applications are handled by HAPC, including the considerations to be taken into account when assessing an application. Inclusion on the next agenda is however subject to the concurrent work on the 2022 budget and may be deferred if the budget discussions are likely to be extensive.
- 94. Closure of the Meeting**
The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.
- 95. Date of Next Meeting:**
Monday 22nd November 2021

Signed.....Chair.....Date

Report from HDC Cllr Sarah Wilson

Planning Services – we continue to worry that capacity is an issue in the planning department and we would be pleased to hear of any issues. Be aware this is a national problem, not just HDC, due to a lack of qualified planners, and excellent staff being lost to the private sector, who reward financially significantly better.

Flooding issues- We are pleased to know HAPC are aware of CCC initiatives to support Community flood groups. There was some muddying of the waters in Jan/Feb 21 when HDC led the coordination of the response to the Xmas 20 floods, but CCC have the lead responsibility for fulfilling this in the long term.

DMC met last week and agreed a Rural Exception site in Hilton - the case was made that it was providing affordable housing for Hemingford Grey and Abbots! Despite 2 A14's (old and new) the legal advice was that it can still be considered 'nearby'! Sarah C voted against it (as did Doug Dew) but it was carried. Sarah C has reported the off slip for the old A14 (several times to Highway England) but there is no discernable progress.